

GREENSBORO PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Wednesday, September 13, 2006 – 6:00pm
Craft Recreation Center – 3911 Yanceyville Street

PRESENT: Paul Brown, Marc Bush, Robert Douglas, III, Lori Galbreath, David Hoggard, Rose Marie Ponton, Judi Rossabi, Randy Scott

ABSENT: Cheryl Wilson

STAFF PRESENT: Candice Bruton, Ed Deaton, John Hughes, Jean Jackson, Darryl Kosciak, Dan Maxson, Brooks Mullane, Darius Oliver, Marcie Richardson, Laurie Thore, Chris Wilson

The regular meeting of the Greensboro Parks and Recreation Commission was held at Craft Recreation Center. Robert Douglas, III, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the August 9, 2006 Commission Meeting were approved as submitted.

Recognition

Dan Maxson, Division Manager, recognized the Parks and Recreation Employee of the Month for September, Chanel Webster.

OLD BUSINESS

Proposed Bond Referendum

Maxson stated that in November 2006 voters will have the opportunity to review the Parks and Recreation Bond Referendum proposals as well as those proposals from a variety of departments across the city. To present further bond information Maxson turned the meeting over to Candice Bruton, Strategic Planning Administrator.

Bruton stated the following Parks and Recreation projects to be listed on the 2006 Bond Referendum.

- Brightwood Neighborhood Park
 - 6 acres, playground development, trails, improved access
- War Memorial Stadium Renovations
 - Restrooms, concessions, lockers and seating renovations for 2,500 spectators
- Greensboro Sportsplex
 - Expand existing restrooms, additional showers
- Southwest Recreation Center Improvements
 - Park improvements (may include multi-purpose fields)
- Mini-Park Development
 - One-acre of land donated at Lee and Arlington Streets for beautification and park amenities
- Parks, Open Space, and Greenways Acquisition
 - Identified in Connections 2025, open space, parks, significant woodland sites, critical habitats
- Skateboard Park
 - Citizen requested facility
- Trail System Expansion
 - Expansion, per Greensboro Parks and Recreation Master Plan recommendations

- Caldwell Historic Park
 - Parking area and interior furnishings

Bond Project Updates

Bruton provided the following Parks and Recreation 2000 Bond Project update:

- Southwest Recreation Center
 - Two public meetings have been held, 18,000 square foot facility, proposed multi-purposed fields, dog park, trails and picnic shelters
- Keeley Park
 - Currently conducting meetings for public input
- Leonard Recreation Center
 - Concession and restroom facility – four to six weeks to completion
- Barber Park
 - Construction to begin soon consisting of a sprayground, playground, replacement of current picnic shelters with new shelters, parking, restrooms and concessions
- Playground Replacements
 - Thirty-seven of one hundred and two playgrounds remain to be installed

NEW BUSINESS

Bryan Park at Guilford County Land Exchange

Chris Wilson, Division Manager, stated that Bryan Park at Guilford County (BPGC) consists of five hundred thirty-five acres that was donated by the Bryan Foundation and is jointly owned by the City of Greensboro and Guilford County. Greensboro Parks and Recreation has been approached by an adjacent land owner, Wayne Troxler, who has made a request, with the Bryan Foundation support, to exchange 26.16 acres owned by Troxler for Parks and Recreation's 23.75 acres. BPGC would gain acreage, a more desirable property line, and would gain a strip of property that would allow better access when development takes place. The property has been surveyed and is of equal value.

Wilson presented the Commission with a map identifying the location of properties and the desired land exchange.

Wilson informed the Commission that the Guilford County Parks and Recreation Commission has approved this land exchange. Wilson asked for the Greensboro Parks and Recreation Commission to vote on whether or not to approve the proposed land exchange.

Action Taken

A motion was made by David Hoggard and seconded by Marc Bush to accept the Bryan Park at Guilford County land exchange. A vote in favor was unanimous.

Pool Pals

Darryl Kosciak, Youth First Coordinator, stated that Pool Pals is a program where three city pools, Windsor, Peeler, Warnersville, are open on three different days throughout the summer. Total attendance this year was 2,333. This program is made possible through support from the community and organizations. Kosciak commended Gregg Everett and his staff for their assistance with this program. Kosciak recognized and presented Khalif Temple 144 with a plaque for their sponsorship with this program. Kosciak also recognized the following other sponsors for their contributions: Carolina Peacemaker, Greensboro Merchants Association, LL Corner Roofing Anderson distributing, ELC Investigative Service, Greensboro Regional Realtors Association and the Guilford College Civitans.

Boy Scout Troop 101 Eagle Project

Brant Taylor, Boy Scout Troop 101, presented the Commission with a proposed Eagle Scout project that consists of installing an artificial infield playing surface at Pomona Field. This surface would provide a more accessible playing surface for those in wheelchairs or walkers that participate in the Challenger Sports League. The existing surface makes it difficult for wheelchairs and walkers to maneuver on the field. The proposed new surface would provide a smooth, even playing surface. In addition to the Challenger Sports League, other organizations who utilize this field would also benefit from this new playing surface.

This project would be a state of the art, all weather baseball field at little or no cost and would provide a safe field for those confined to wheelchairs and those who utilize walkers.

Support for this project has been given from Jean Jackson the Greensboro Parks and Recreation Athletics Director, Donald Moore with the Greensboro Grasshoppers and Rob French with the ARC of Greensboro.

The cost of this proposed project is approximately two hundred sixty thousand seven hundred sixty dollars (\$260,760.00.) Funding would be gathered from fundraisers and donated funds.

Action Taken

A motion was made by David Hoggard for the Parks and Recreation Commission to whole heartedly support the Eagle Scout project presented by Brant Taylor, Troop 101 and seconded by Randy Scott. A vote in favor was unanimous.

SPEAKERS FROM THE FLOOR

NONE

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

On behalf of the absent Director, Bonnie Kuester, Dan Maxson stated the following comments:

A Keeley Park public meeting will be held at Peeler Recreation Center on Thursday, September 21, 2006.

The Friends of Greensboro Parks and Recreation Organization, with the leadership of Lori Galbreath, Robert Douglas, III, Cheryl Wilson and Rose Marie Ponton, now consists of eight or nine citizens who are committed to being on the Board of Directors. The first meeting will be held this fall as we move forward with the Friends of Greensboro Parks and Recreation Organization.

Upcoming weekend events:

Fourth Annual Flying Frog Adventure Race, a team race in which the teams compete through 3 different events, mountain biking, kayaking, running, and cross the finish line as a team.

The Native American Pow-Wow at Country Park.

John Hughes added that the National Softball Association World Series will be held at Carolyn Allen Park.

The Greensboro Youth Council is accepting applications for Leadership Greensboro through September 22, 2006.

Selective Parks and Recreation staff will be in Seattle, Washington during the next scheduled Parks and Recreation Commission meeting attending the National Recreation and Parks Association Conference. During this conference we will be defending our two year self assessment as part of the Accreditation process. Based on preliminary reports that have been filed with the Commission for Accreditation of Parks and Recreation Agencies, we should return as an Accredited Agency. Due to staff absence, the Commission can elect to cancel the October meeting or conduct a meeting on an alternate date.

Robert Douglas, III stated that the October meeting will be cancelled with the possibility of a re-scheduled meeting if needed.

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

Paul Brown distributed an article, for the Commission's information, from the News & Record regarding trails and an article regarding gangs. Brown stated that gangs are indeed a concern and expressed the importance of gang awareness. Brown stated that he attended the Jaycee Park ball field dedication which was a most impressive and quite enlightening event with over one hundred in attendance.

Rose Marie Ponton stated that the Jaycee Park ball field Dedication was a great success.

Marc Bush commended Tim Thilo and the Bryan Park staff for their efforts regarding the phenomenal success of the new Score at the Shore soccer tournament that was held the end of July.

Bush stated that Greensboro will be hosting the 2007 and 2008 North Carolina Amateur State Games. The games will consist of fifteen thousand athletes registered from across the state and will utilize Greensboro Parks and Recreation facilities both years two weekends in June.

Lori Galbreath stated that effective this meeting she is officially serving her own term and no longer serving the remainder of a previous Commissioner's term. Galbreath stated concerns regarding Bur-Mil Park. The concerns were addressed with appropriate staff once the meeting adjourned.

David Hoggard brought forth a citizen concern requesting whether or not the ball field lights at Peeler Recreation Center can be turned on and the lack of parking spaces. Hoggard commended staff for their response regarding the flag at memorial stadium.

Hughes replied stating that the Peeler Center field is not a programmed field and funding is not available from the Parks and Recreation budget to light the field; however the lights are turned on in November during playoff games. Due to limited land space, expansion of parking is not possible.

Robert Douglas, III stated that he attended the Jaycee Park ball field dedication and the numbers in attendance shows how much influence these coaches have on the city.

Douglas appointed Judi Rossabi, Marc Bush, and Lori Galbreath to the nominating committee.

With no further Commission business Douglas adjourned the business meeting at 7:25 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marcie Richardson, Executive Assistant
Greensboro Parks and Recreation